(b) if so, the details about the project and the action plan thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons for the delay?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c) Mumbai Urban Transport Project (MUTP) has been conceived by Government of Maharashtra and is to be implemented jointly with Government of India. The main objectives of MUTP are to enhance the capacity, efficiency and financial viability of the urban transport systems in Mumbai and also to promote institutional development and capacity building. The total outlay for the MUTP is Rs. 4526 crore of which Rs. 2602 crore is funded by a World Bank loan.

Mumbai Railways Vikas Corporation (MRVC) has been set up to implement the Rail projects in MUTP. 45% of the civil works in the rail projects have been completed. Procurement process for supply of 110 EMUs rakes is also at an advanced stage. Work on two link roads is in progress.

The scheduled project implemention period is till 2008.

Urban Land Ceiling Act

1895. SHRIMATI S. G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have asked the State Governments to repeal the Urban Land Ceiling Act and the State Rent control Laws within a definite time-frame;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that out of the total housing shortage of 22.4 million units in urban areas, 80 per cent is the need for weaker section and low income group people;

(d) whether it is also a fact that Government are considering to bring in social housing and rental housing programmes; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) No, Sir. Only Urban Land (Ceiling & Regulation) Act, 1976 was

repealed by the Urban Land (Ceiling & Regulation) Repeal Act, 1999 and this restored to the States their Constitutional and legislative powers on the subject of land as enumerated in entry 18, List II of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution.

(b) The Repeal Act has already come into force in the States of Haryana, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan and UT of NCT of Delhi, Pondicherry and Chandigarh.

(c) The estimated housing shortage till the end of Tenth Plan is 22.44 million and approximately 80% is for weaker section and low income group.

(d) to (e) Housing is a State subject and the State Governments are required to prepare action plan for any housing activity in the State. National Habitat & Housing Policy, 1998, however, provides that emphasis will be on creation of housing stock on ownerships and rental basis.

Development of urban areas of North East

1896. SHRI URKHAO GWRA BRAHMA:
SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what steps are being taken to develop the urban areas of the North Eastern States with special mention to Assam;

(b) whether any funds have been provided for the development of the cities and towns of Assam in this current financial year; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Under this Ministry the following schemes are in operation to develop the urban areas of North Eastern States:

(i) Lump sum provision for the benefit of projects/schemes for North Eastern Region including Sikkim: Under the scheme, 68 projects/ schemes have been sanctioned at an estimated cost of Rs. 50267.79 lakh and Rs. 30748.14 lakh have been released for North Eastern Region. Details are given in the Annexure-I to IV respectively [*See* Appendix 203 Annexure No. 13]